GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
NABARD ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE GRADUATES
KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is ready tc extendfinancial assistance to unemployed agriculture graduates;

(b) ii so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether any State-wise survey has been done about the number of unemployed agriculture graduates in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) the time by when the above scheme is likely to be launched?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO FARTS (a), (b), k). (d) & (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.189 FOR REPLY ON THE 2 6 JULY, 2002 TABLED BY SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD REGARDING NABARD ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE GRADUATES

(a) & (b): Following the announcement made in the Union Budget for the year 2001-2002,National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated a scheme to provide financial assistance to agriculture graduates for setting up of agri-clinics and agri-business centers. These are to provide extension services to facilitate technology transfer, also for and augmenting input supply and services. The scheme aims at providing gainful employment to agriculture graduates in new and emerging areas in agriculture. The prescribed ceiling of the project cost for an individual and group is Rs.10 lakhs and Rs.50 lakhs respectively. The repayment period of the loan could vary between 5 to 10 years depending upon the activity and may include a grace period of a maximum of 2 years. The rate of interest is to be decided by the financing banks as per Reserve Bank of India`s guidelines. NABARD would provide 100% refinance for the bank loan.

(c) & (d): In response to the advertisement released by the Government of India in leadingdailies soliciting applications from agriculture graduates desiring to set up agri-clinics /agri-business centers, 11, 667 agriculture graduates have responded to undergo training in select training institutes in the country. The State-wise data on number of applications received is given in Annexure,

(e): The scheme has already been launched with effect from 23 July, 2001.